AMENDMENT TO ~~THE~~ SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph on page 24, lines 1 – 9, with the following amended paragraph:

A1

After passing through nip **106**, the three (or more) component webs **120**, **130**, and **140**, shown together as web **102** in FIG. 10, have been formed into laminate web **10**. At this point in the process, the outer layers are thermally bonded to each other and unapertured, as shown in FIGs. 1 and 2. Central layers(s) **30**, from web **130**, is apertured, having been displaced by protuberances **116** in nip **106**. Depending on the central layer(s) used, it (they) may or may not participate in the bonding about the periphery of the bond sites. In some instances, particularly for non-thermoplastic, non-fibrous materials, the central layer may not be involved in the bonding of the outer layers at all. However, for thermoplastic materials[,] and fibrous materials, some involvement of the central layer(s) is observed.

Please replace the paragraph on page 24, lines 16 – 22, with the following amended paragraph:

A2

One method for forming apertures across the web is to pass the web through nip ~~**130**~~ **131** formed by an incremental stretching system **132** employing opposed pressure applicators **134** and **136** having three-dimensional surfaces which at least to a degree are complementary to one another. Stretching of the laminate web may be accomplished by other methods known in the art, including tentoring, or even by hand. However, to achieve even strain levels across the web, and especially if localized strain differential are desired, the incremental stretching system disclosed herein is preferred.